

The two dead swallows were found in a completely dry state and hence it appeared that this little tragedy must have taken place at least a month ago. It is likely that the eggs were broken by the birds during their struggle to escape from the nest; or the other possible explanation for the broken eggs might be that the starving birds helped themselves to the contents?

This unusual incident also throws some light on the roosting habits of this swallow. It would seem, at least in some cases, that the male roosts in the nest while the female incubates the eggs.

BHUJ,
KUTCH,

M. K. HIMMATSINHJI

September 20, 1959.

8. THE DIFFERENT CALLS OF THE GREY PARTRIDGE *FRANCOLINUS PONDICERIANUS* (GMELIN)

Generally people are under the impression that the call of the Grey Partridge, commonly heard in our countryside, is uttered by the male alone, but in actual fact in eight cases out of ten it is the combined calls of both the cock and the hen which one hears. I have kept partridges as pets, and thus have had the opportunity to study their different calls at close quarters. These I shall now try to describe.

There are mainly two types of calls which are uttered by the male. Generally they are preceded by low clucks or chuckles uttered several times at intervals of a few seconds, each successive cluck rising in intensity. This is followed by the high-pitched *kili ka ka ka kili ka ka ka* or *kila kila kila* repeated in quick succession. While fighting or challenging, rival males also utter a sharp *pila . . . pila . . . pila* at intervals of two to three seconds. The female sometimes utters low chuckles also, but these are not as sharp as those of the male. The usual call of the female is a very high-pitched monosyllabic *tee tee tee* repeated several times. She also says *kila kila kila* like the cock, but this call, though similar, is softer and more sharp in comparison. Normally, when the male calls the female joins him and combines her *tee tee* with his *kili kaka* or *kila kila*; and so when they call in unison it sounds like *kiliaak killak killaak* or *kateela kateela kateela*. In the former call, i.e. *kiliaak*, the first syllable of the male's call is uttered simultaneously with the *tee* of the female followed by the *likaka*, while in the latter, i.e. *kateela*, the *tee* of the female is uttered a fraction of a second after the *ki* of the

male, and hence this combined call sounds like *kateela kateela kateela*.

Apart from the above calls there is also a very sharp and high-pitched alarm call which sounds like *tirrr tirrr tirrr* repeated quickly when partridges are flushed by a bird of prey or any animal. When danger is suspected, *chirrr . . . chirrr . . . chirrr* is repeatedly uttered at intervals of between two to eight seconds. This short alarm call is usually continued to be sounded by the birds until they are satisfied that the danger, whether real or imaginary, has passed. When partridges have young chicks with them the above calls are uttered more often. As soon as the parents sound the alarm notes the young ones rush for cover, and they remain quite still until called out by the parent birds with a soft *kunva kunva kunva* which is answered by the shrill *ti ti ti . . . ti ti ti* of the chicks, audible at some distance. These calls of the parent birds are repeated, and the little ones also continue with their tiny calls until the whole family is re-united. Young males sometimes make their first attempt to call when they are between three to eight weeks old.

BHUJ,

KUTCH,

September 28, 1959.

M. K. HIMMATSINHJI

9. THE OCCURRENCE OF THE WHITENECKED STORK [*CICONIA EPISCOPA* (BODDAERT)] IN THE KASHMIR VALLEY

Early in the morning of May 15 1959, when I was walking along the Dal Lake in Srinagar, a solitary Whitenecked Stork was observed opposite to Oberoi Palace Hotel (altitude about 5200 ft.).

The occurrence of the Whitenecked Stork in the Valleys is noteworthy since it marks an extension of its distributional as well as altitudinal range. THE BOOK OF INDIAN BIRDS mentions that it occurs up to an altitude of 3000 ft. above sea-level. Osmaston (Notes on the Birds of Kashmir, 1927, *JBNHS* 32) does not record it, neither do Bates & Lowther in their THE BREEDING BIRDS OF KASHMIR.

174, KASBA PETH,

POONA 2,

October 20, 1959.

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[The Whitenecked Stork occurs in the Salt Range area of the Punjab and has once been recorded in Sind. As far as we are aware, the above is the first published record for Kashmir.—Eds.]